

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

CONGRATULATING THERESA MORRIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the achievement and advancement of a longtime member of our Ninth Congressional District team, Theresa Morris of Toledo, Ohio.

Theresa is an intelligent, compassionate daughter born into a working-class family in Toledo. She is a true public servant. Theresa has served as a congressional aide in our office for 27 tireless and honorable years.

She has advanced her capacities across a wide spectrum of duties, such as outreach to small businesses, coordinating the district's efforts on the Congressional Art Competition, serving as a grants and funding coordinator, and being a dependable project assistant.

She developed firsthand experience on a far-ranging set of issues relating to immigration, the State Department, and Homeland Security. Her service has been invaluable to thousands upon thousands of our citizenry.

Theresa knows and loves our Toledo community as fiercely and as well as anyone. That is why I am thrilled that she was recently appointed to serve on the City Council of Toledo, Ohio, taking her first step into elected office. I could not be more proud of her, her family, and all those who treasure Theresa as a coworker, a friend, and a confidante.

Theresa is a graduate of Start High School in Toledo; Alma College in Michigan; and Lourdes University in Sylvania, Ohio, where she earned her bachelor of arts and master of organizational leadership degrees, respectively.

Theresa has served on the boards of the YWCA of Greater Toledo, the City of Toledo Youth Commission, Team Recovery, WGTE Public Media, and the Arts Council of Lake Erie West.

Theresa received the 2018 Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award. She has a certificate in Minority Executive Leadership, and is a graduate of the Toledo Citizens Police Academy.

Her interests are wide-ranging and unending. Some have observed she may be the longest-serving Hispanic congressional staff member in United States history. Mark that one down for the record.

Madam Speaker, Theresa is made of good humor, tenacity, and grit. She al-

ways has a smile. While we are sad to see her go, I can tell you with absolute certainty that no one is better prepared to fight for the working people of Toledo than Theresa.

Along with the entire staff, I wish her fair winds and following seas as she takes her career in public service to new heights on the "Good Ship Toledo." I look forward to working closely with Toledo Councilwoman Morris as she ably steers her craft full steam ahead.

Onward, Councilwoman Theresa Morris. God bless you.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR CHOICES IN ELECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, right now, we are facing a critical question for our country. It is a question about whether our country wants to be first or last.

A lot has been made, obviously, of the former President's agenda, which he referred to as "America First."

I think, unfortunately, we are sitting here right now, and our country is now too often looking at America last.

There are a number of issues that are facing the constituents that I represent, but I believe this is true for people all across the country. I have spoken many times here on this floor about this.

In Texas, our border is under siege. In Texas, it is a very real impact on our life, our communities. I share that with my colleagues all across the country, all 50 States represented here.

It is very real in Texas, but it is very real in our country about the impact of the broken border. It is very real right now with people who run small businesses and need to hire people and they can't because we are paying people more not to work than to work.

It is very real when people are going to buy gas at the pump, and it is well over \$3 a gallon.

It is very real when you try to buy a house, and lumber is up 470 percent.

It is very real when you want to go get the healthcare of your choice and you can't.

It is very real when you turn on the TV, and you watch what was Middle East peace now turning into chaos as our friends in Israel are being attacked.

There are consequences to our choices in elections. There are consequences to the leadership you have in your country. There are consequences to the decisions we make.

I would think that all Americans, regardless of which side of the aisle you fall, whether you are in Congress or you are back home watching, you want America to be first. You want America to succeed. You want America to do well. You want our allies to succeed.

As you see, I am putting a comparison here of what the world looks like with America first and what the world looks like with America last.

Admittedly, we had the intermittent reality of dealing with the pandemic. But just over a year ago, we were dealing with record low unemployment, record levels of employment for minority communities in our country, a booming economy, with strong economic growth. America was leading and moving the world forward.

Today, we have jobs that are vacant, not being filled. Small businesses coming up to me, saying: "Our whole livelihoods are getting destroyed; we are going to lose everything we have built, because we can't hire anybody."

I go to restaurants and I see "help wanted" signs. They are struggling to have anybody there to serve. People are going back. It is not the virus. People are going back. They just can't get service. Every businessperson I talk to in the State of Texas faces the same dilemma, the same problem: They can't hire anybody.

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Now why might that be? Could it be that in the infinite wisdom of this body that we have spent \$6 trillion over the last year—\$6 trillion over the last year—and that, as part of doing that, we have funded unemployment at levels that is making it more attractive for Americans to choose not to work than to work. Americans are logical human beings. When presented with that choice, they are going to make that choice. Some aren't, but many do.

And now, you are owning a restaurant and you are trying to have wait staff or people to bus tables or cooks, and you can't hire them. You are trying to run a landscaping company, you can't hire them. You are trying to run a cleaning business, you can't hire them.

This is real, and it is happening right now in real time. The result, an economy stagnating. We are not taking off with growth. Now we have got inflationary pressures because we just spent \$6 trillion. You run the risk of stagflation, low economic growth, higher cost of goods, all while we are now dealing with the uncertainty of a world in chaos.

A year ago, small businesses were thriving. Now, small businesses are getting crushed. A year ago, not too long ago, gas was \$1.77 a gallon. Now we are looking at gas over \$3 per gallon. As I said, lumber prices are up 478 percent; copper is up, I think, 50 to 70 percent.

My parents right now are trying to go through building a house, and they are not sure if the dollars they have got set aside to do it are going to work, because all of these prices are going up, up, up at extraordinary rates.

There is a cost to bad leadership and bad decision-making. Our border was well on its way to becoming secure. In April last year, we had 20,000 apprehensions. How many apprehensions did we